

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
FOR
CALIFORNIA MEDICAL PROVIDERS
REGARDING PERINATAL HIV TESTING CONSENT**

December 2004

In October 2003, Assembly Bill 1676 (Dutra) was signed into law by former Governor Gray Davis. This bill amended (Health and Safety Code Sections 125085, 125090, 125107 and added Section 125092), relating to HIV/AIDS.

These statutes require medical care providers to screen every pregnant woman in California for HIV as part of the standard prenatal test panel. Additionally, providers are required to explain the purpose of the HIV test and to ensure the right of the woman to refuse the test. The new laws require laboratories to report a positive HIV test result to the local health officer and mandate that the provider who ordered the test inform the pregnant woman of the test results.

The legislatively mandated HIV informational material and the HIV test consent form may be downloaded from <http://dhs.ca.gov/ps/ooa/Resources/OAforms.htm>. These PDF file documents may currently be downloaded in English and as they become available in Spanish, Armenian, Cambodian, Farsi, Korean, Lao, Chinese, Hmong, Russian and Vietnamese. The HIV informational material can be used as a tool to guide the discussion between medical provider and patient and allows the patient the opportunity to make an informed decision before consenting to being tested for HIV. The HIV Perinatal Consent form was developed to assist medical providers in documenting the offer of the HIV test. This form should be included in the patient's medical record.

HIV clinical information is also available for healthcare providers through the National HIV/AIDS Clinician's Consultation Warmline at (800) 933-3413. The Perinatal Hotline, a national HIV consultation and referral service is also available through the University of California, San Francisco at San Francisco General Hospital at (888) 448-8765. The Perinatal Hotline provides healthcare providers 24-hour advice from HIV experts on indications and interpretations of HIV testing, as well as consultation on treating HIV-infected pregnant women and their infants.

HIV referral and consultation resources for patients, including experts of prenatal HIV treatment are available through the California HIV/AIDS Hotline at (800) 367-AIDS (2437).